

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL LYON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0936

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS LYON 0164

E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS : PINT

SUBJECT : REACTION IN THE JURA TO BARRE'S APPOINTMENT AS PRIME
MINISTER

YESTERDAY PRINCIPAL OFFICER VISITED LONS LE SAUNIER, CAPITAL
OF FRANCE'S JURA DEPARTMENT FOR COMBINED CELEBRATION OF LONS
LIBERATION BY U.S. TROOPS IN 1944 AND AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL.

NEWS OF RAYMONDBARRE'S APPOINTMENT AS PRIME MINISTER BECAME
KNOWN AT OFFICIAL DINNER HOSTED BY MAYOR DR RENE FEIT, WHO IS
ALSO A DEPUTE, AND ACTING JURA PREFET F. FILLIATRE. OTHER
ATTENDEES WERE VARIOUS PRESIDENTS OF LOCAL VETERANS AND
RESISTANCE GROUPS. MOST APPEARED CONSIDERABLY SURPRISED BY
BARRE'S NAMING, WHILE SOME HAD OBVIOUSLY NOT EVEN HEARD OF
HIM, NOTWITHSTANDING HIS PRESENCE IN THE CHIRAC
GOVERNMENT AS MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE. DR RENE FEIT,
MEMBER OF THE PRESIDENT'S REPUBLICAINS INDEPENDANTS PARTY
WONDERED ALOUD WHAT EFFECT THE APPOINTMENT WOULD HAVE ON
RELATIONS WITHIN THE MAJORITY. HE SAID HE WAS COMPLETELY
IN THE DARK AS TO WHAT THE NEW CABINET MIGHT LOOK LIKE.

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THE ACTING PREFET TURNED OUT TO BE MOST FAMILIAR WITH
THE NEW P.M.'S BACKGROUND AND CAREER. HAVING BEEN PROF.
BARRE'S STUDENT, PREFECT FILLIATRE RECALLED BARRE'S ADVICE
TO DE GAULLE IN 1968 NOT TO DEVALUATE THE FRANC WHILE ALL
OTHERS COUNSELLED DEVALUATION. HE WENT ON TO DESCRIBE HIM AS
A BRILLIANT THEORETICIAN, BUT ATTUNED TO PRACTICALITIES.
AS AN ECONOMIST HE EQUATED HIM WITH PROF. SAMUELSON OF THE
U. S.

BUSINESSMEN IN THE GROUP WERE MOST PLEASED BY THE APPOINTMENT.
AND PREDICTED EARLY SOLUTIONS TO FRANCE'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS
INCLUDING THE FRANC, INFLATION AND BALANCE OF PAYMENT
DIFFICULTIES.
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